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BOB GRATRIX

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- 1 MR. GRATRIX: [I guess we're in the place now where DOE has come down from the mountain down to Las Vegas and said, "Here's the product of what we've been working on. This is the fruits of our labor. Eat of it. It is good."

Before we take the first bite, let's hang on just a minute. Okay. I think it's fair and I think it's our responsibility fundamentally to look at the creditability of the preparer of this thing, and we're talking about DOE here, and what I want to talk about is some of the things that have happened not -- I could go back years and years if I wanted to, but let's not look back that far. Let's talk about six months ago when Senator Warren Rudman who described the DOE as "a dysfunctional bureaucracy that has proven itself incapable of reforming itself. It's a shameful organization."

He goes on. If it's not broke, don't fix it. This thing is broken so badly, don't even try to fix it. Unfortunately for the American people, the Rudman report confirms that the Department of Energy as currently organized simply cannot be trusted with the awesome responsibility of protecting our nation's most prized nuclear secrets. So if they can't, I really call into question how are they going to tackle the physical reality of ensuring our safety for not only our generation, but countless ones to come. We owe it to ourselves to really look at it.

It winds up by saying Peter Sheffield comments "The DOE bureaucracy has managed to fight off every major reform. I'm drawn to thoughts of that jetsetter Hazel O'Leary, I believe her name was, who was so arrogant and I think she pretty much characterizes this organization, so arrogant and unresponsive and jetsetting herself around the world with a number of elite business people to comment that there's no way that the DOE would ever be disbanded or broken down, that they were just too big for it.]

- 2 Going on, here's another thing. Not everyone -- this is almost -- this is almost a year old. [This is US Energy Department charged with contempt for failure to complete major nuclear weapons environmental study. Deja vu. Plaintiff asks Federal Court secretary, top aids, assesses million dollar fines and cancel illegal decisions. They go on to say that there was a contempt motion filed with the District Court, seeks imprisonment until DOE produces a binding schedule for preparing and issuing a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on the agency's environmental and waste management program.

DOE had agreed to complete the EIS in a stipulation signed by John Borkin in October 1990 to settle a lawsuit brought by many of the same groups. Plaintiffs are also seeking -- were/are to order DOE to withdraw its recent decisions concerning the waste isolation pilot program for treating and storage transitory waste because they're not based on a complete analysis of environmental impacts and alternatives.

So it's like here we go again. The DOE has reneged on a fundamental legal commitment to look at various cleanup options, so "how can we who live in the communities surrounded by these facilities trust the Department to make good on its obligation to actually clean up the toxic and radioactive pollution at its sites?" asks Marilyn Kelly, Tri-Valley Citizens Against a Radioactive Environment and so on.]

- 3.... Here's another one. [This is one of their own statements stating like -- I know that these people are intelligent somewhere, but it's just they don't act like it, and the next statement is like they're talking about natural disaster and they go on to say acts -- excuse me. Natural disasters are a dramatic example of people living in conflict with the environment, period.

And they go on to say sustainable development implies not only disaster resistance, but also resource efficiency. The prudent use of energy, water and materials to ensure supplies for future generations.]

3 cont. [Well, at first glance this facet of sustainable development may seem unrelated to a disaster prevention. In truth, they are intrinsically tied, and this is from your statements. You guys know this stuff and you're not practicing it. This is like disaster planning, curiously stuff you have in here, and that's what's going on with Yucca Mountain. We've got a conclusion that we're trying to back some logic in to back into a conclusion, and yet I think that they're planning a real disaster up there regardless.]

4 [I just want to say real quickly in Al Gore's book, he mentioned something that we're all aware of. Nuclear waste, of course, is the most dangerous of all since it is highly toxic and remains so for thousands of years. Indeed the most serious waste problems appear to be those created by federal facilities involving in nuclear weapons production. Basically the technology for disposing of waste hasn't caught up with the technology of producing it. So I'm set. I'm not going to take a bite of this.] Thank you.